

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. -15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:

a first expandable tubing section defining a threaded male portion having lead and back thread flanks; and

a second expandable tubing section defining a threaded female portion having lead and back thread flanks, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another;

the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion.

17. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein the difference between the angles of the lead thread flanks of the male and female portions is less than 10°.

18. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 17, wherein the difference is between 1 and 5°.

19. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 17, wherein the difference is approximately 2°.

20. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at 45° with respect to a main thread axis.

21. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 16 wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion are disposed at 43° with respect to a main thread axis.

22. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at 43° and the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion at 45° with respect to a main thread axis.

23. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein the back thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions are disposed at an acute angle with respect to a main thread axis such that the respective thread portions are angled away from an adjacent end of the respective tubing section, to define a hook profile.

24. (Currently Amended) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section defining a threaded male portion having lead and back thread flanks; and
a second expandable tubing section defining a threaded female portion having lead and back thread flanks, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another;
the back thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions being disposed at an acute angle with respect to respective main thread axes such that the respective thread portions are angled away from an adjacent end of the respective tubing section;
wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion.

25. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 24, wherein the acute angle is between 40 and 90°.

26. (Original) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 25, wherein the acute angle is approximately 83°.

27. – 76. (Cancelled)

77. (Previously Presented) A method of coupling expandable tubing sections together, the method comprising:

- providing a first expandable tubing section defining a threaded male portion having respective lead and back thread flanks;

- providing a second expandable tubing section defining a female threaded portion having respective lead and back thread flanks, the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion; and

- coupling the first and second expandable tubing sections together.

78. – 84. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

85. (New) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:

- a first expandable tubing section defining a male portion; and

- a second expandable tubing section defining a female portion, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another the second expandable tubing section including a restraining member for restraining part of the other expandable tubing section upon expansion of the section, the restraining member extending from a distal end of the second tubular and including an area of reduced thickness permitting flexible movement of the restraining member about the area of reduced thickness, wherein the first expandable tubing section includes a tapered shoulder for cooperating with a corresponding tapered shoulder of the second expandable tubing section and the shoulder comprises a face of the respective expandable tubing section and the shoulders of the first and second expandable tubing sections are adapted to define a gap between their respective tapered surfaces when

the first and second expandable tubing sections are engaged and before expansion of the connection arrangement.

86. (New) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 85, wherein the gap is adapted to close on expansion of the connection arrangement to bring the tapered surfaces into contact.

87. (New) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section defining a male portion;
a second expandable tubing section defining a female portion, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another; and
the second expandable tubing section including a non threaded restraining member extending from a distal end thereof for restraining part of the first expandable tubing section, the restraining member including a hinge about which the restraining member is adapted to bend upon expansion of a portion of the first expandable tubing section, wherein the restraining member comprises a separate component coupled to the respective expandable tubing section to form the hinge therebetween.

88. (New) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 87, wherein the restraining member comprises a sleeve.

89. (New) A tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 87, wherein the restraining member comprises a plurality of arms.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to sheet 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet. Fig. 7 has been added to sheet 2 to overcome a drawing objection raised by the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet